

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed July 2, 2008 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-15, 18-21 are allowed (renumbered as 1-16, respectively).

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takagi et al. (US 2003/0147345) discloses detecting errors in a ring network (para. 5).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-3166. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost, can be reached at 571-272-7872. The centralized fax number for the Patent Office is 571-273-8300. For non-official communications, the examiner's personal fax number is 571-273-3166 and the examiner's e-mail address is kevin.harper@uspto.gov.

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/Kevin C. Harper/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2616

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